

Sincerely,

Nola Vaughn
1639 Panorama Lane
Birmingham, Alabama 35216

From: jberta@att.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Tue, Apr 1, 2003 2:35 PM
Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, *N* station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that use local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission **see** the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not **less**, about proposed changes would best serve the public interest. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process **as** open and inclusive **as** possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Berta
1230 N. Mesa Dr. #142
Mesa, Arizona 85201

From: jberta@att.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Tue, Apr 1, 2003 2:35 PM
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Chuck Steele
202 South Morgan Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

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Kimberly A. Stenley
61 Frederick St.
Taneytown, Maryland 21787

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From: jberta@att.com
To: KathleenAbernathy
Date: Tue. Apr 1, 2003 2:35 PM
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